

Gala Art Auction

Saturday 17 October 7pm, Thistle Hall
or bid online at www.October15thSolidarity.info

WEEK OF EVENTS:

Tues 13 Oct, 6pm: Exhibition Opening with Tame Iti at Thistle Hall Gallery.

Wed 14 Oct, 7:30pm: A celebration of political music featuring the works of Urs Signer, composer, clarinetist and Operation 8' defendant, with others at the Adam Concert Room, VUW, Fairlie Terrace.

Thurs 15 Oct, 7pm: Film screening of 'Tuhoe: a history of resistance' and short films about the October 15th raids at the New Zealand Film Archive.

Fri 16 Oct, 6pm: Meet the artists and hear about their creative resistance at Thistle Hall Gallery.

Exhibition hours Wed-Sat 12-6pm

Meryl Brooker - *Home Invasion*



Kia ora,

This newsletter is from October 15th Solidarity Wellington. We send out irregular updates on the campaign to support the people arrested in the so-called 'anti-terror' raids in Aotearoa (New Zealand) on 15 October 2007, 19 February and 17 April 2008.

There are Solidarity crews working around the country. If you would like to get involved or start your own solidarity crew, email info@october15thsolidarity.info for more details. You can make a financial donation to the campaign by direct deposits or automatic payments at any Kiwibank, Account name: October 15 Solidarity, Account Number: 38-9007-0239672-000. Please specify if the money is for 'legal defence', for 'arrestee support' or for 'campaign work'. Cheques made out to 'October 15 Solidarity' can be posted to October 15 Solidarity, PO Box 9263, Wellington, New Zealand. If you would like to submit writing, photos, stories, or responses please get in touch!

info@October15thSolidarity.info
info

www.October15thSolidarity.info

Repression of Indigenous Activists in India

Jiten Yumnam, member of the Coordinating Committee of the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN), was arrested at Imphal Airport on 16 September. On the same day, seven identified executives of the All Manipur United Club Organization (AMUCO) were also arrested after a combined team of Singjamei Police and Imphal West Police Commandos raided their office.

Reports state that a case has been registered against all eight men and booked under Section 121/121-A of Indian Penal Code which deals with "attempting to wage war", "conspiring to commit offences against the state" and with "unlawful acts of supporting or motivating" of what the State

considers as "insurgents".

Aside from being a founding member of the APIYN, Jiten Yumnam is also the Joint-Secretary of Citizens' Concerns on Dam and Development (CCDD) that had been vocal and active in motivating youth engagement against constructive dialogues with Governments in the background of development aggression and militarization in North East India. At the time of his arrest, Jiten was actually on his way to Bangkok for another international meeting on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and was proceeding to New Zealand for the Indigenous Climate Connections (ICC) afterwards.

Operation 8 Legal Update

This legal update is necessarily short as the pre-trial application proceedings that have been happening in the Auckland High Court in the last two months are subject to suppression orders by the Judge.

In August and September, the defendants made a variety of pre-trial applications under Section 344A of the Crimes Act. These applications related to the admissibility of evidence that the Police wish to use in a trial, should one ever actually happen. Some of the applications applied to all of the defendants, while other applications were individual applications relating to particular pieces of evidence.

In these applications, the judge must first make a ruling about whether or not the evidence was unlawfully obtained. Following that, she then makes a decision if it was unreasonably obtained. There is not 'one law for all' but rather one law for us, and one law for the police. This Section 30 of the Evidence uses a balancing act to determine

in what circumstances it is Ok for them to commit crimes to gather evidence that is then used to arrest people for crimes.

During the original Parliamentary debates about this Section 30 of the Evidence Act, Green MP Nandor Tanczos argued that any unlawfully obtained evidence should be by its very nature be unreasonable, but the dominant pro-police cabal in parliament won out giving police the benefit of the doubt and extending them a special status in the law.

Starting the week of October 19-31, there are another two weeks of these pre-trial applications. These hearings are at the Auckland High Court and are open to the public. We encourage you to come down to support and find out what is happening with the case.

The next required appearance by defendants is December 18 at 10am.

Graffiti Terrorists

Six political activists have just been arrested in Belgrade. Their alleged crime: a circled A graffitied on the Greek embassy in August. As well as the circled A, other 'damage' that occurred at the embassy included a crack in one window and a tiny burn mark on the façade.

The Belgrade prosecutor says the protest at the Greek embassy was an act of international terrorism and while the state works out how to lay the charges, the Belgrade 6

are being held in custody.

The action at the Greek embassy was an act of symbolic solidarity with Thodoros Iliopoulos, a Greek man still in custody nearly a year after the Greek riots.

For further information about the Belgrade 6, visit their solidarity website at:

<http://asi.zsp.net.pl/political-arrests-in-belgrade/asi-statement/>

Remember the State Terror Raids...

October 15th Solidarity newsletter

26 September 2009

Campaign update

Issue 15

EXPLOSIVE EXPRESSION

Creative Resistance to the State Terror Raids of Oct '07

Art Exhibition and Auction

Over the week running October 13th to October 18th, *Explosive Expression*, a collaborative exhibition and series of workshops, culminating in an auction on October 17th, will commemorate the events of Operation

8, now frequently referred to as the 'State Terror Raids' with proceeds from the auction going to court costs of those arrested and undergoing trial. More than forty New Zealand artists have turned their brushes, cameras and conceptual expertise towards the issues at hand: civil liberty, geo-politics in the wake of 9/11, and the cultural conflicts born out of colonization in Aotearoa. The exhibition is to be opened by October 15th arrestee, artist and long-time Tuhoe activist Tame Iti, on October 13th at Thistle Hall in Wellington, and the auction, Saturday 17th October, is to be MCed by ex-MP Nandor Tanczos.

The historical relationship of art and activism is a venerable one: Pablo Picasso, in reference to his 1937 work 'Guernica', told the world 'painting is not done to decorate apartments. It is an act of war, and as many of the artists contributing to *Explosive Expression* have demonstrated over the course of their careers, creative resistance is alive and well in Aotearoa too.

Some of the artists featured are:

Tame Iti: While perhaps better known for his activism, Iti has also had a lengthy and varied artistic career. His most recent artistic endeavor has been a series of Te Reo Māori performances of Shakespeare in the United Kingdom, and his painting work has been displayed in the Wellington City Gallery.

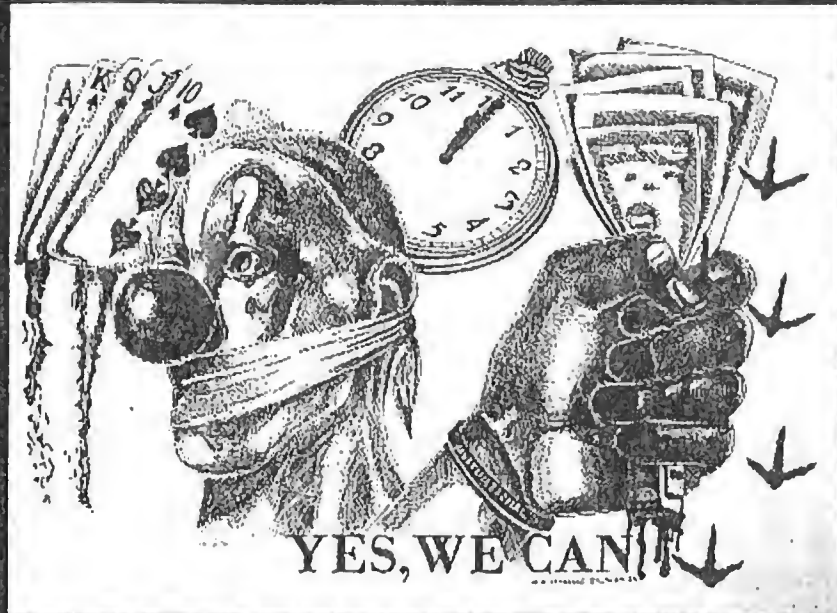
Ngaahina Hohaia: Hohaia is this year's recipient of a Te Waka Toi Māori Arts Board of Creative New Zealand Scholarship. Hohaia's work draws on both traditional practices and contemporary ideas, demonstrating the interweaving of cultural ideas in the social landscape of New Zealand. Her practice embraces media from sculpture through to jewelry and adornment. She has exhibited throughout New Zealand at Aveia Gallery (Auckland), Pataka Gallery (Porirua) and Expressions Art Centre (Upper Hutt).

James Robinson: Robinson has recently returned to New Zealand after a warm critical reception in the United States, where in 2007 he was the recipient of the prestigious Wallace Art Residency in New York. Robinson's work examines the tense impact of the contemporary world upon the nature of being, and his practice utilizes everything from soot to poetry in aid of this investigation.

continued inside...



Tame Iti - Self-Portrait



Isabelle Gauthier - *The circus of politics*

Explosive Expression (cont.)

Gil Hanly: Hanly's camera has been present at all significant protest movements in New Zealand's recent history. She has documented many movements including H.A.R.T, the struggle for women's rights, Bastion Point, and the recent hikoi. She provides *Explosive Expression* with a homegrown documentary context for creative resistance.

Shane Hammond: Hammond has tended to resist gallery exhibitions, instead exhibiting in alternative spaces around the world from Auckland to Barcelona, including theatres, eateries and the headquarters of Amnesty International. Hammond's work addresses the relationship of New Zealand to the global sphere, the disharmony of modern living, and calls to the communicative power of symbolism.

Chanz Mikaere: Mikaere is a Rotorua based artist who works in painting, sculpture and design. Her work is concerned with power, oppression, resistance and the subjugated status of Māori women in the wake of colonization.

A full list of participating artists can be found at www.October15thSolidarity.info/artauction

Charlotte Graham - *Tangi a taku ihu e whakamaku nei*



Berlin three nearly free!

The year-long trial against three German anti-militarists is coming to an end in Berlin. The verdict is expected within the next month. The three are accused of having sabotaged military vehicles in protest against Germany's military and in particular against the country's involvement in the Balkans war in the 90s and against the ongoing deployment of troops to Afghanistan. They are also accused of membership in a 'Terrorist Organisation', the 'militant group'.

In their opening statement in court, nearly a year ago, the three stated: "The accused should be the warmongers, the war supporters and the military industry. They are the criminal organisation. They should be charged". But as to be expected, during the following 57 trial dates none of the above mentioned groups appeared in court. However, the political nature of the trial has become more obvious every day. If nothing else, the trial has revealed a lot about the way the German state prosecutes those it perceives as enemies.

It was revealed that the police published discussion articles about militant direct action under false names; that they illegally co-operated with the intelligence services; that they published articles on their own web site regarding the 'militant group', in order to be able to trace the identity of anyone who read them (because obviously only terrorists would be interested in the subject) and that they based their evidence on statements of an unnamed informant, who later had to admit that the 'intelligence' they provided was only hearsay. The judge heard police witnesses blatantly lie in the stand while ignoring pretty much all of the applications the defence submitted.

None of this was unexpected, but it is still worth noting.

During a recent demonstration against repression, under the slogan 'Freedom instead of Fear', a spokesperson for the cam-

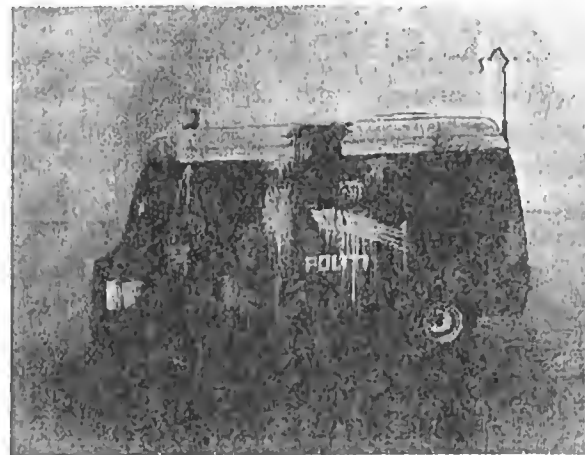
paign group said:

"When the state reacts with repression to activities that are directed against its militaristic politics then this is unpleasant, but not really surprising. It seems important to us to adjust to this, and to continue to determine our actions and our ways of acting entirely ourselves. [...] The more the political and social relationships come to a head, the more the state must attempt to restrict the scope for any form of resistance. It is necessary to be vigilant and to insist on rights which at times seem long lost."

Last Tuesday, the last scheduled day of the hearing, the defence submitted a raft of new applications to bring the trial back to the demands in the opening statement. They asked the court to summon those who should be charged - those who are responsible for the Balkans war and the war in Afghanistan - arguing that these wars were, and are, illegal and that resistance against them is justified and legal under the German constitution.

The defence therefore applied to subpoena former chancellor Gerhard Schröder, former defence minister Rudolf Scharping, former foreign minister Joschka Fischer, as well as ex-US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. They also intend to call up witnesses who will testify that the German engagement in Afghanistan is a war campaign and not technical aid, as the government claims. Among those witnesses is NATO Chief of Command for Europe, General Wesley Clark. The prosecution, on the other hand, argues that these issues are irrelevant to the case and the judges have reserved their decision on the applications.

Meanwhile, none of the accused or their supporters are holding their breath about the outcome of the trial and solidarity actions are planned for the day the verdict is read. But maybe the final days of the trial may still get interesting.



Bell Murphy - *Some things are worth fighting for*

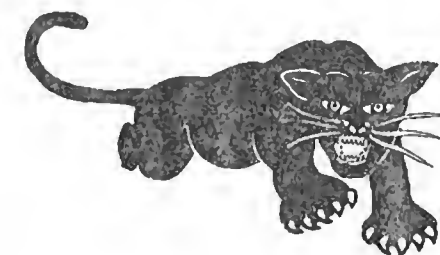
Black Panther brings artistic solidarity to Aotearoa

On Saturday 19th September the former Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party spoke at Te Papa. For nearly 2 hours Emory showed a series of his artwork, talking about each one and situating it in its social context. There were images of marauding pigs trampling through communities, of people baring guns and fighting back, there were children hand-in-hand looking strong, of rats stealing into people's home. Each picture was a powerful image and, along with Emory's words, the police brutality, the poverty of the time and, despite all, the strength and determination of the people shone through.

Emory spoke about the community projects that were organised, such as buses to the local prisons for families, and the breakfast before school programmes. There were also concerted programmes to fight corrupt landlords. Similar programmes were also run in Auckland by the Polynesian Panthers. However, the main stream media typically ignored these types of actions and focussed on the guns and state paranoia about the Panthers.

Emory is currently the Elam International Artist in Residence at The University of Auckland and during his time here he has met with members of the Polynesian Panthers, travelled to te Urewera, and spoken at several public meetings, as well as at te Papa in Wellington.

Not all of his artwork came from his time in the Black Panthers, there was also more recent work and Emory also spoke about the modern American prison industrial complex and the modern state harassment of former Black Panther members. He also talked about former Black Panther, Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is still on death-row in Pennsylvania.



If you want to catch a glimpse of Emory's artwork, visit <http://www.newmuseum.org/exhibitions/415>

or to find out more about Emory and / or the Black Panther Party, visit http://www.itsabouttimebpp.com/Emory_Art/Emory_Art_index.html

